



# Federal Council BULLETIN

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Vol. XVIII, No. 6



June, 1935

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The Rivals of Christian Evangelism

If We Are Not To Have Another War

Kagawa's Hope for a Christian  
Economic Order

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A JOURNAL OF INTERCHURCH COÖPERATION

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# Coming Events

A calendar of the more important national meetings of church organizations, so far as known to the BULLETIN, is published monthly in this column.

CHURCH CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK Montreal, Canada.....	June 9-15
NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION Colorado Springs, Colorado.....	June 20-25
ASSOCIATION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES OF COUNCILS OF CHURCHES, JOINTLY WITH EMPLOYED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Lake Geneva, Wis.....	July 1-6
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION, Philadelphia, Pa.....	July 2-7
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PREACHERS Aurora, Ill.....	July 16-19
WORLD CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND ORDER, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Middelfart, Denmark.....	August 4-8
WORLD CONVENTION OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Leicester, England.....	August 7-12
WORLD ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE CHURCHES Geneva, Switzerland.....	August 12-18
THE UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Geneva, Switzerland.....	August 18-22
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE Alfred, N. Y.....	August 20-25
INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RELATIONS Williamstown, Mass.....	August 22-30
THE CENTRAL BUREAU FOR INTER-CHURCH AID Vienna, Austria.....	September 2-9
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL MIS- SIONARY COUNCIL Northfield, Mass.....	September 27-October 6
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISCIPLES OF CHRIST San Antonio, Texas.....	October 15-20
AMERICAN MISSION TO LEPERS Annual Meeting, New York, N. Y.....	October 16, 17
FIVE YEARS' MEETING OF THE FRIENDS Richmond, Ind.....	October 22
STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONVENTION Indianapolis, Ind., December 28, 1935-January 1, 1936	
TWELFTH WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION Oslo, Norway.....	July 6-12, 1936

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## Federal Council Bulletin

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VOL. XVIII, No. 6

JUNE, 1935

## THE EDITORIAL OUTLOOK

### *A Prayer for Pentecost*

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose Spirit so brooded at the first upon the formless void that all things were created that were made: we praise and magnify Thy Name for that creative descent and operation of His power when at Pentecost Thy Church was inspired to begin with Thee the renewal of the world through the finished work and abiding presence of Jesus Christ Thy Son.

We thank Thee that Thou hast poured out Thy Spirit upon the Church, and that Thou hast set her as a light to shine in dark places, and as a lamp to guide the steps of the weary and wandering unto Thee. We praise Thee, Who art the inspirer of prophets and apostles and of every true and good thought and feeling in all men, that Thou hast given so liberally of Thy Spirit that we have never been left without many and good teachers and leaders of their brethren in every generation. And we pray Thee so to pour out the same Spirit on us, that we may have a right judgment in all things, and that love and goodness and all the fruits of righteousness may abound in the lives of Thy Church and people, to Thy praise and glory. Amen.

(From "Let Us Worship God," published by Doubleday, Doran & Co.)

### *The Rivals of Christian Evangelism*

WHILE THE proclamation of the Christian message is the task of the Church in every age, it is peculiarly the *crucial* task of ours. For not since Christianity confronted a pagan Roman Empire in the first centuries of the Christian era has it been face to face with such a widely organized and radical denial of the Christian Gospel. Over great areas of the earth the basic conceptions of life for which the Gospel stands are to-day not

merely treated with indifference but are subject to active opposition and an aggressive counter-propaganda.

Look at Russia. There one of the most powerful governments in the world has openly declared war on religion and is zealously seeking to rear a generation without any consciousness of God. By word of mouth, by press, by radio, by every device which we have thought of as instruments of Christian evangelism, an anti-Christian campaign is being waged on every front. That is in a country which was once the stronghold of the Greek Catholic faith.

Look at Mexico, for centuries a citadel of Roman Catholicism. While the testimony that comes from our Southern neighbor is still too conflicting for us to be able to speak with assurance, we shall probably soon see that the campaign of the Mexican government is not merely against grave abuses in the Church but (as in Russia) against religion itself.

Look at Germany, the fatherland of the Reformation. There a new paganism, deliberately conceived as a substitute for Christianity, is being proclaimed by powerful voices, which are becoming more and more aggressive. At first the struggle in Germany seemed to center only around the efforts of the State to use the Church for political ends, but now the battle has been joined against Christianity itself. A new popular religion is heralded, based not upon the revelation of God's saving love for all men in Christ, but upon the myth of "race" and "blood" and glorifying the old Teutonic deities as more congenial to the nationalism of Germany. No less a hero than General Ludendorff, on the eve of his seventieth birthday, a few weeks ago, bluntly announced, "I am anti-Christian and a heathen."

For the first time in the modern world Christianity now faces the well-organized opposition of great corporate forces that propose to win



mankind away from loyalty to Christ and the Christian view of life. These forces have the evangelistic drive, the crusading spirit, the propagandist zeal that have hitherto been associated with Christianity.

And yet there are Christians to-day who feel that Christian evangelism is unnecessary! Surely they are blind to the character of the day in which they live. They are Rip Van Winkles, fast asleep and oblivious of the great currents sweeping through the world. If men can be flaming evangelists for communism and nationalism, what a lasting reproach if we who know the Christian faith to hold the key to the world's salvation from the present chaos are tongue-tied and stammering! If ever there has been a time during the nineteen centuries since our Lord said, "Ye shall be my witnesses," when we needed to bear our testimony effectively, that time is now.

### *Kagawa's Hope for a Christian Economic Order*

MANY WHO gratefully welcome the leadership of Toyohiko Kagawa in evangelistic endeavor in Japan are not familiar with his equally remarkable pioneering in rebuilding the economic life on a Christian basis. In his latest book, *Christ and Japan* (Friendship Press), he records his mature conclusion as to how the "law of love," which is integral to the Christian Gospel, can be practically worked out in the world of economics. His answer is that it is to be done through the development of "coöperatives," organized on the principle of mutual helpfulness rather than competition. "I am pouring my prayers and the reddest blood of my life," he says, "into the work of carrying forward this quiet, undramatic economic reformation."

The "coöperatives" which Kagawa believes to mark the next step in advance toward a Christian economic order have for some decades attracted the attention of thoughtful people in Europe but are too little known in this country. The "consumers' coöperative," which is the simplest form in which the movement appears, has spread from the original experiment in Rochdale, England, to other nations and has been notably successful in rural Denmark. It is an organization of business on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the members, the returns over and above the costs (including interest on the

capital) going to the consumer-members. In Japan, under Kagawa's leadership, there has also been successful experimentation in credit coöperatives among the peasant farmers.

Here is a form of economic organization which is in keeping with the Christian ideal of brotherhood. It is a movement which should be eagerly encouraged by all Christians who have become painfully aware of the ethical inadequacy of our present economic structure and yet are deeply convinced that neither fascism nor communism offers any alternative acceptable to the Christian conscience. Fascism and communism alike involve a denial of freedom and a reliance on violence which negate the heart of Christianity. Communism, moreover, is so associated with an atheistic materialism as to be repugnant to anyone who has come to any deep faith in the spiritual meaning of life. While the coöperatives can hardly be a complete answer to the demand for a Christian economic order, and while there is no evidence as yet that they can deal as adequately with production as with distribution, the experiment is surely one that should be welcomed by all who believe that the Gospel of Christ is to be taken with real seriousness in our economic life. It affords the promise of an increasing ownership of business and industry by the people themselves, through democratic and orderly processes, preserving the values of freedom and rivalry that go with competition and at the same time getting rid of the exploitation of the many for the profit of the few. It is a type of economic democracy which should thrive in countries that have the strongest foundations of political democracy. It is significant that the coöperative has advanced most in democratic countries like Denmark, Sweden, Holland and England, while under undemocratic governments—fascist Italy and Germany and communistic Russia alike—it has been virtually suppressed.

For Christians the great thing about the coöperative movement is its spiritual possibilities—the fact that it offers a technique for practicing brotherhood in our economic life.

### *If We Are Not to Have Another War*

THE CHURCHES are rightly concerned about the present threat to the civilization of the world. The nations are preparing for war, annually expending more than \$5,000,000,000 on their military establishments.



The United States has launched the largest and most costly program of military expansion in its peacetime history. The projected military budgets of the principal nations are at a much higher figure than in 1913. The persistent refusal of the Great Powers to honor their disarmament pledges has led to Germany's renunciation of the military clauses of the Versailles Treaty. The great nations, including our own, are jointly guilty of precipitating a race in armaments which threatens the peace of the entire world.

But war is not inevitable. If constructive steps are taken by the United States and other nations it can be averted. Should not the churches, devoted to the cause of peace, commend such policies as the following to our people?

*First*—Continuation of efforts looking toward the negotiation of an international treaty for the reduction of armaments which will provide for the total abolition of military and naval aircraft, the drastic reduction of military and naval establishments, and the international control of the manufacture and sale of the weapons of war. If an honest and forthright attempt were made, even at this late date, to hold a World Disarmament Conference, with Germany occupying the position of an equal, and to reduce the armaments of the nations to the level imposed upon Germany, the world situation could be immeasurably improved.

*Second*—Resumption by the United States of conversations looking toward the convening of the 1935 naval conference as projected by the London (1930) conference. While it is true that the naval construction now under way or authorized falls within the tonnage limits prescribed by existing naval agreements, the effect of this construction, in our own and other countries, conduces toward international suspicion and a deepened sense of insecurity and fear.

*Third*—Curtailement of the excessive military and naval budgets already authorized or now pending in Congress. The present administration has launched a military program out of all proportion to our requirement of genuine national defense. The proposed expenditure during the next twelve months of \$1,000,000,000 for military and naval purposes stamps our present government as the most military-minded in the peacetime history of our country.

*Fourth*—Modification of our traditional policy of neutral rights in the interest of safeguarding the peace of the United States in the event of war. This change of policy should provide for the placing of a strict embargo on loans, credits, arms and munitions to nations resorting to war and the giving up of our hitherto accustomed "neutral rights of trade." The time to formulate such a policy is now, not in time of war.

*Fifth*—Adoption of legislation for taking the profit out of war and of preparations for war. Apparently this problem can best be dealt with through provisions for drastic taxation of war-time incomes, not through legislation which would regiment the manpower and the economic resources of the nation.

*Sixth*—Negotiation of reciprocal tariff agreements and the initiation by our government of conversations looking toward the convening of a world economic conference.

*Seventh*—American membership in the World Court and a statement by the United States of the terms upon which the United States would be willing to join the League of Nations.

Were the United States to take such steps as these, it could contribute mightily to the peace of our own and other lands. Failure on our part to act decisively and heroically in the present juncture will bring upon us a day of doom which will be the moral judgment of God on our generation.

### *The High Points of the Arms Inquiry*

THE *CHRISTIAN CENTURY* has put all students of international affairs and workers for peace in its debt by its special supplement of May 15 on "The Arms Inquiry." In this 22-page summary of the hearings before Senator Nye's Committee, Paul Hutchinson has done a masterpiece of reporting which makes it possible for the reader to get the heart of the evidence without poring interminably over a staggering volume of material. Reprints are available at ten cents each, \$7.50 per hundred, by addressing the *Christian Century* at 440 South Dearborn Street, Chicago. To secure and distribute a hundred copies would be a fruitful service to the cause of peace.



## Missionaries in Japan Plead for Peace

"AS Americans living in Japan we find ourselves in a position of peculiar privilege. To the rich heritage of our own citizenship, there is added the wealth of life and friendship with another nation. Our experience has deepened our appreciation of both peoples and has convinced us that priceless benefits will continue to flow naturally from growing intimacy and coöperation between them."

These are the words of a considerable number of Christian missionaries residing in Japan who, in a stirring letter addressed to Christians of the United States, plead for the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. They go on to say:

"In the presence of forces which, if unchecked, may easily endanger the long record of unbroken peace, we would urge our friends in the United States to redouble their efforts to understand the problems and difficulties confronting the Oriental peoples, to remove all sources of friction and misunderstanding for which our nation may be responsible, and particularly to cultivate attitudes that will spurn any suggestion of seeking solutions of our problems by means other than the employment of peaceful diplomacy. We plead for the will to peace.

"With a solemn sense of our responsibility as Christian Americans in Japan, and in the light of our intimate knowledge of the Japanese people, we declare our conviction that the cause of peace and mutual welfare will be served if our fellow American citizens resolutely and conscientiously consider the following proposals:

"(1) To study with care the laws proposed in our legislative assemblies, or already on the statute books, that bear upon our relations with foreign countries, and more particularly to remove the aspects of our Immigration Act which offend the self-respect of Oriental peoples;

"(2) To condemn the subversive propaganda against foreign

countries frequently appearing in certain of our newspapers;

"(3) To bring to bear the force of Christian principles upon the foreign policies of our government;

"(4) To support our government in every effort to avoid giving offense to friendly nations by such incidents as indiscreet declarations on the part of public officials, naval maneuvers on the borders of friendly powers, and other provocative gestures of force;

"(5) To encourage our government to take the lead in disarmament proposals which, while protecting legitimate national interests, shall eventuate in reduction of armaments to police status;

"(6) To cherish the faith that peace can be won and maintained wherever men of goodwill unite in sacrificial and intelligent coöperation, and to encourage the round-table method of solving the complex but by no means insoluble problems now confronting the nations in East Asia;

"(7) To reënforce our government in every possible way in a policy of coöperation with other nations through the International Labor Office, the World Court, and all other effective agencies for world regeneration. We believe that the entry of the United States into the League of Nations would greatly contribute to the maintenance of peace in East Asia, removing a serious obstacle to Japan's return to the League, and encouraging her coöperation in all international affairs.

"In thus addressing our fellow-Christians in the United States, we would stress the need of forbearance and sympathetic understanding of the spiritual aspirations and material needs of all the Oriental peoples; we urge the exercise of a fearless and enlightened conscience in the discernment and support of the moral principles involved in this situation. We believe in facing these problems upon the plane of Christian love rather than that of materialistic self-interest. We assure our fellow-Americans of the presence of this spirit and point of view among many of our Japanese friends, both Christian and non-Christian, and we pledge ourselves to work to the end that in the critical issues before us the advocates of reason and peace on both sides of the Pacific may speak the final word."

## *New Chairman of Department of Evangelism*

FOR TWO and a half years, Dr. William Hiram Foulkes, pastor of Old First Church of Newark, N. J., has been Chairman of the Federal Council's Department of Evangelism, serving most faithfully and with deep satisfaction to all friends of the Council. Because of his heavy load of responsibilities, together with his weekly radio broadcast, and also because of health reasons, Dr. Foulkes has felt compelled to resign the chairmanship of the Department. His resignation has been accepted with profound regret and at the same time with high appreciation of the invaluable service he has rendered. He will continue as a member of the Department and has consented to serve as Chair-

man of the special Committee on the "National Preaching Mission."

The Executive Committee at its April meeting elected Dr. William S. Abernethy, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., to succeed Dr. Foulkes. Dr. Abernethy has been the Vice-Chairman of the Department for over two years. He brings to it the rich experience of many years as a pastor. Bishop Ralph S. Cushman of Denver was elected Vice-Chairman to succeed Dr. Abernethy. He is the present Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism of the Methodist Episcopal Church and is leading that great communion in a four-year program of evangelism to



culminate in 1938, which date will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the "heart-warming" experience of John Wesley.

On April 30 and May 1, the Department of Evangelism held its Twelfth Annual Conference in the Capital City, at the Calvary Baptist Church, with the valuable coöperation of the Washington Federation of Churches, Dr. William L. Darby, Executive Secretary. The various denominations sent their evangelistic representatives, who gave inspiring reports and formulated plans of evangelism for the coming year in a great spirit of unity. The united evangelistic program, as agreed upon, will emphasize personal daily devotions, church attendance, personal and educational evangelism, evangelistic preaching and the care and culture of new members.

Dr. Foulkes presided over the day sessions, during which ample time was given for discussion of plans and methods. The evening dinner at the Calvary Baptist Church was attended by 250. The toastmaster was Dr. Abernethy and the speakers were Dr. Albert W. Beaven of Rochester and Dr. Foulkes.

Action was taken looking toward coöperation this autumn with the American Bible Society in the observance of the four-hundredth anniversary of the first printed English Bible, and also in the observance of the centennial of the birth of Dwight L. Moody next February. Plans are under way for coöperation in another series of Youth Conferences to be held this autumn. Plans are also going forward for the nationwide "Preaching Mission" either in 1936 or early in 1937.

## Church Conference of Social Work Meets in Montreal

A RICH PROGRAM has been prepared for the Sixth Annual Church Conference of Social Work, to be held in Montreal, Canada, June 9-15, under the chairmanship of Professor Charles R. Zahniser, of the Boston University School of Religious and Social Work.

Included in the subjects for discussion are: spiritual foundations of social work, responsibility of religious leaders in areas of social conflict, the training of a socially functioning ministry, techniques and standards in the clinical training of theological students, developing socially minded home-builders for to-morrow, the volunteer in social work, the therapeutic use of religion in social work, medical aspects of personality adjustment, training of professional church social workers, the place of church institutions in neighborhood and community life, pre-marital instruction and post-marital counselling, the Wesley House movement in Southern cities, ideals and trends in Lutheran social work, religious motivation in social work, and characteristics of religious child-caring institutions. The Episcopal Social Work Conference will also be in session in Montreal.

More than thirty organizations and institutions are represented in the program. The National Conference of Social Work is represented by its President, Miss Katharine Lenroot; the Social Service Council of Canada by Rev. C. E. Silcox; the Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students by Dr. Helen Flanders Dunbar; the National Council of Federated Church Women by Mrs. James T. Ferguson and others; Greenwich House, New York, by Mrs. Vladimir G. Simkhovitch; Onward Neighborhood House of Chicago by Miss Lena Seemann; the American Social Hygiene Association by Dr. Valeria H. Parker; the National Conference of Jews and Christians by Dr. Everett R.

Clinchy; the Charity Organization Society of New York by Stanley P. Davies.

Features of special interest are the daily vesper services, offered to the entire National Conference, at which the spiritual factors in social work and social betterment will receive attention. A series of breakfast meetings will bring the workers together for early morning conferences. A unique feature is the Interfaith Breakfast, in which Catholics, Jews and Protestants will be represented. On Tuesday evening the great social film, "Black Fury," will be presented. A booth and consultation center will be provided, at which representative leaders can be met for consultation.

Membership in the Church Conference is invited on the basis of interest in its objectives. Active, \$1; contributing, \$5; sustaining, \$10. Members of the Conference are entitled to reduced railroad fares, amounting to a fare and one-third for the round trip. Persons interested should communicate with Dr. L. Foster Wood, Secretary, at the office of the Federal Council of Churches, 105 East 22nd Street, New York.

A letter from the Deputy Minister of Immigration and Colonization of Canada expresses the hope that the experience of the visitors from the United States will tend toward international friendship and a clearer understanding between our two countries.

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"Growing Together in the Family," by L. Foster Wood, Secretary of the Committee on Marriage and the Home, arrives just as we are going to press. It is a book of six chapters for classes of young married people, or for individual reading, put out by the Abingdon Press, cloth bound, 127 pages, at fifty cents.



## *Progress in United Work in Canal Zone*

**T**HE UNION CHURCH of the Canal Zone is a striking demonstration of the possibilities of unity. Ten thousand Americans live in the Zone, for the most part transients, coming from all parts of the Union. Members of at least seventeen denominations live in the four communities in the Zone—Cristobal, Gatun, Pedro Miguel, Balboa. In each community is a union congregation, which is a part of the Union Church of the Canal Zone.

The churches in the States coöperate with this Union Church through the Federal Council's Committee on Religious Work on the Canal Zone, which during the past twenty years has helped very materially in the erection of three churches costing about two hundred thousand dollars. The people of the Canal Zone have contributed generously toward the erection of these buildings, while meeting the cost of carrying on the work.

Dr. Roy B. Guild, Secretary of the Committee on Religious Work on the Canal Zone, visited the Union Church during the month of April, accompanied by Mrs. Guild and Dr. and Mrs. William R. King, and was most cordially welcomed. Holy Week services were held from Palm Sunday to Easter in the Cristobal and Balboa churches, each of the secretaries speaking to each of the four congregations. In Balboa, the Southern Baptists coöperated with the Union Church in these services by having them in one church or the other on alternate evenings. The secretaries also spoke in the Army posts and Young Men's Christian Association. On Easter, Dr. Guild conducted a Sunrise Service on the Point at Fort Amador and vespers in Fort Clayton.

The report made by the officers of the church for the past year is very encouraging. The membership has grown from 635 to 754. The membership of the Sunday Schools is 1,429, of the Endeavor Societies, 146, of the Ladies' Auxiliary, 298. The total amount raised for expenses was \$17,108.52. In addition to this, \$6,000 was raised by the Pedro Miguel Church to match a contribution of \$2,000 secured by the Committee on Religious Work on the Canal Zone with which to erect a church at Pedro Miguel. The old building had been made unusable by termites. During the next year a similar building must be erected at Gatun. The Sunday school of the Gatun church enrolls 125 children out of a possible 148 children. The people of the Zone are proud of the splendid Union Church building at Balboa, which has the largest auditorium of any Protestant church south of the Rio Grande. The dealer in postcards at Balboa stated that he sells more postcards of the Union Church than of any other building in the Canal Zone. It is sometimes referred to as the Cathedral of the Caribbean. The church at

Cristobal, the first to be completed, is a well planned building, a center of activity on both Sundays and week days.

While in the Canal Zone, Dr. Guild, who is also Secretary of the General Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains, had two conferences with the chaplains in the Zone, arranged by Mr. J. C. Bott, the General Secretary of the Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Associations. Chaplain Edward L. Trett and Mrs. Trett entertained the visitors and their co-workers in the chaplaincy in Fort Clayton. Chaplain James W. Elder is supply preacher for the Pedro Miguel Church.

The pastors of the Union Church—Rev. Ray Willing Smith at Balboa and Rev. Cecil L. Morgan at Cristobal—are especially well adapted to the field which they serve. People and pastors make the Union Church of the Canal Zone a force for good in a region that needs such influence in a unique way.

The President of the Executive Committee of the Union Church of the Canal Zone is Rev. R. R. Gregory, who is Agency Secretary of the Caribbean Agency of the American Bible Society. When Dr. and Mrs. Guild, or Dr. and Mrs. King were in Cristobal, they were entertained in the guest room of the building of the American Bible Society, Mr. and Mrs. Gregory being their hosts.

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### **School Uses Radio Morning Devotions**

The radio program, "Morning Devotions," broadcast over a network of stations each weekday morning, has been used in an unusual way by Mrs. Ida T. Roberts, a teacher in the Avondale School, Birmingham, Ala. She accords additional credits in English to pupils whose parents report that the children have listened to twenty-five "Morning Devotions" and who themselves hand in written reports of two broadcasts embodying verses of Scripture and one or more stanzas of hymns used in the services.

The reaction on the part of both pupils and parents has been gratifying. Their interest in the Bible has increased and whole families have come to enjoy this daily service.

In recognition of the help given from the office of the Federal Council's Department of Religious Radio in sending advance programs, the class forwarded a contribution of a few dollars, part of which had been secured during a week of self-denial into which the pupils eagerly entered.

Two Southern stations, WFB in Atlanta, Ga., and WJDX in Jackson, Miss., decided to begin their broadcasting at an earlier hour each day in order to carry the Morning Devotions, when the introduction of Day-



light Saving Time in the studio of WJZ in New York at the end of April brought this prized program to them an hour earlier than formerly.

### Developing the Spirit of Worship

The spring meeting of the Federal Council's Committee on Worship on May 9 was one of the most fruitful held since the Committee was formed three years ago. Intensive consideration was given to a study of "Acceptable Standards of a Good Worship Service," originally made by Chaplain S. Arthur Devan of Hampton Institute, and carried further by Professor Edward S. Worcester of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. A new subject of great interest was presented by Professor Fred Winslow Adams, of the Boston University School of Theology, in his discussion of "A Church Calendar Year" and his concrete outline of a suggested calendar to be followed in local churches. His proposal seemed to have such value as a means of securing a cumulative spiritual emphasis that a special committee, consisting of Dr. Adams, Professor Edward S. Bromer, of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in the U. S., and Professor Luther D. Reed, of the Lutheran Seminary at Mt. Airy, was appointed to carry the study further.

Dr. E. M. Conover, director of the Interdenominational Bureau of Architecture, gave an illustrated address describing the best trends in modern church building and emphasizing the relation of architecture to worship.

As a result of requests from various quarters, consideration was given to the possibility of securing agreement as to the use of either "debts" or "trespasses" in the Lord's Prayer. It has become clear that many union services are marred by divergent usage at this point. The Committee felt that it would be beyond the province of the Federal Council to advise any denomination what usage it should follow, but decided to recommend to the Executive Committee of the Federal Council that in programs of worship prepared for interdenominational use under the auspices of the Council itself, the word "trespasses" should be used. Final decision on this point will be made later by the Federal Council's Executive Committee.

### Observance of Pentecost

Under the leadership of the Federal Council's Department of Evangelism, an effort is being made to kindle a greatly increased interest in Pentecost as one of the great days of the Christian Church. A pamphlet entitled "Fifty Great Days," prepared by Dr. Jesse M. Bader, Secretary of the Department, is in wide demand. One great denomination in which little recognition has hitherto been given to Pentecost, is mailing copies of this pamphlet to all its pastors.

The significance of Pentecost as marking the birth

of the Christian Church and the beginning of a corporate fellowship of the disciples of Christ reaching down through the centuries is being given special emphasis.

Pentecost (or Whitsunday) comes this year on June 9.

### Next Steps for Better Films

The members of the Federal Council's Committee on Motion Pictures on May 14 reviewed the developments of recent months and found themselves agreeing that the decency movement has accomplished its purpose for the time being, and that better as well as reasonably clean pictures have been coming from the studios since last July, when the Production Code Administration, or self-censorship at the source, went into effect in Hollywood. The Committee appreciates what has been done by the industry but will watch further developments closely.

It was agreed unanimously to recommend the following next steps to the churches:

That continued support be given to the Pettengill Bill for abolition of enforced block-booking and blind selling of motion pictures;

That local councils of churches and pastors be urged to create committees on motion pictures, and to relate such church committees to community Better Films Councils where such councils are properly organized;

That the International Council of Religious Education be asked to prepare an introductory study course on the motion picture, and that study groups of parents, young people, and adult Bible classes, to use this and other educational materials now available, including the interim course prepared by Dr. Tippy, be organized in the churches;

That the churches be urged to take an active interest in Better Films Councils, and, when needed, take the initiative in their organization.

In order to meet the present demand for a study course on motion pictures, Dr. Worth M. Tippy, Secretary of the Federal Council's Committee, has written an outline of a twelve-period course based on the booklet, "How to Select and Judge Motion Pictures." A shorter seven-period course, combining sections of the longer course, is offered in the appendix. The outline is for the leader, so that only one is needed for a study group. The material is in mimeographed form and sells for fifteen cents. The larger booklet, which is in the nature of a brief introduction to the motion picture, can be had for fifteen cents each in quantities of twenty-five or more to one address.

### "Keep the United States Out of War"

A mass meeting on the arresting topic, "How to Keep the United States Out of War," is being held in Carnegie Hall, New York, on May 27, while this issue of the *Bulletin* is in press. It is expected that a great audience will gather to hear Senator Gerald P. Nye, chairman of the Senate committee investigating



the munitions industry, Senator Bennett C. Clark of Missouri and Congressman Maury Maverick of Texas.

The meeting is being held under the auspices of the National Peace Conference, which includes the representatives of twenty-eight organizations actively engaged in working for world peace. Dr. Walter W. Van Kirk, Executive Secretary of the Federal Council's Department of International Justice and Goodwill, is chairman of the National Peace Conference and has been mainly responsible for the arrangements for the mass meeting.

## The Federal Council and the Share-Croppers

Inquiries into the conditions confronting the share-croppers and share tenants, especially in Arkansas, led the Federal Council's Executive Committee to issue the following statement at its meeting on April 26:

"The present plight of the share-tenant and share-cropper in the wide areas of the cotton-growing districts, should enlist the concern of the churches. The extensive studies recently made under the direction of the Committee on Minority Groups in Economic Recovery, have reinforced earlier studies made by the Federal Council's Departments of Race Relations and of Research and Education, and have thrown a clear light upon the deplorable conditions under which two millions of our fellow-citizens—both Negro and white—live and work. The reports reveal that seventy-one per cent of the cotton farmers are landless, that tenancy is rapidly increasing and that the decline of exports of cotton, accompanied by the limitation of cotton acreage, has further depressed the living standards of multitudes of tenant farmers. A large proportion of them have been cast entirely adrift without access to any land and without any means of support.

"The situation urgently calls for measures which will make it possible for farmer-tenants to have farm homes on land of their own, and the Executive Committee of the Federal Council recognizes with satisfaction that the problem is now under consideration in Congress, and urges that effective legislation to this end be enacted."

The Bankhead bill, now before Congress, is designed to serve the objectives urged in this resolution.

## Churches Not "Bankrupt," Yearbook Shows

The alleged "financial bankruptcy" of the churches of the United States has no foundation in fact, according to a study presented in the *Yearbook of American Churches*, which came from press last month. The volume, edited by Rev. Herman C. Weber, is a biennial record and interpretation of the religious life of the nation.

"There is little foundation in fact," the Yearbook reports, "for the threatened 'financial bankruptcy' of the churches of the United States, prophesied by some writers on religion. A study of the indebtedness on church edifices, as reported by the larger religious groups, reveals that many of them as groups carry a very small proportion of indebtedness compared with the value of their property. The largest single group, the Roman Catholic Church, reported an indebtedness of 15.5 per cent, based on the figures of church prop-

erty collected by the Census Bureau in 1926. The Protestant Episcopal Church reported 3.8; the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. 6.3; the Methodists, 10.5; the Northern Baptists, 8.6. The percentage for the entire church and synagogue enterprise was 11.2."

The Yearbook is published under the auspices of the Federal Council of Churches (\$2.00) and is regarded as the one authoritative source of information for Protestantism as a whole.

## Dr. Macfarland's Book on Mexico

*Chaos in Mexico*, by Dr. Charles S. Macfarland, General Secretary Emeritus of the Federal Council, will come from the press of Harper & Bros. (\$2.00) within a few days. It is the result of his recent visit to Mexico, during which he interviewed more than a hundred leaders—government officials (including President Cardenas), dignitaries of the Catholic Church (including Archbishop Diaz), Protestant churchmen, labor leaders and others. The book is especially valuable for the documents which Dr. Macfarland presents in English translations—the laws and regulations dealing with religion and education, the utterances of spokesmen for the Church, letters and other source materials necessary to any adequate insight into the situation.

Dr. Macfarland begins with a historical summary both of Mexican politics and of the Church, as a background for understanding the present conflict. An illuminating chapter analyzes the present educational policy of the government, as the heart of the issue between Church and State. The point of view of the State in its relation to religion is set forth in considerable fullness, chiefly in the contentions of its own officials. The defense of the Church is similarly interpreted. A special chapter is given to the Protestant churches and to Protestant opinion in Mexico.

The resulting picture is so many-sided that one feels that the title of the book, *Chaos in Mexico*, is aptly chosen. While Dr. Macfarland maintains a high degree of objectivity and refrains from any dogmatic opinions or premature conclusions, he does not hesitate to indicate his own impressions on the major issues. To the question whether the State is suppressing religious liberty he replies in a clear affirmative. He is also clear that the State is persecuting the Church—according to any ordinary definition of persecution. He inclines to believe that future developments will show the present government to be opposed, not only to the Church and the clergy, but also to religion itself. He thinks that

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Protestantism as well as Catholicism will be a target of this hostility. He raises the question, without venturing a final answer, whether the final outcome is to be a "totalitarian" State devoted to a materialistic conception of life.

While sympathetic with the Catholic Church in its struggle for freedom, Dr. Macfarland makes it clear that the Church comes into court with a weak case, not only because of certain unhappy aspects of its own record in Mexico, but also because it has not been willing to grant to other churches the liberty that it asks for itself.

The volume will be reviewed in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

### Mission Boards to End Competition

For the first time in the history of missionary activity in this country a definite agreement between various denominations has been entered into to discontinue all competitive mission work, according to a plan worked out by the Home Missions Council.

Representatives of five denominations—Baptist, Congregational-Christian, Methodist Episcopal, Presby-

terian, and Reformed—signed this agreement on May 17, at the offices of Dr. Ernest M. Halliday, President of the Home Missions Council.

The Disciples of Christ and the Evangelical Synod have accepted the agreement and representatives of each have only to affix their signatures. Other boards have it under consideration.

The agreement calls for the joint planning of missionary work by the boards of various denominations. In order to facilitate the elimination of competition, such as subsidizing two or more rival churches in a given community, the boards will work hand in hand with a comity committee of the state home missions council, which will have the power to pass judgment.

Wherever a comity committee does not exist in a state, one will be formed. The boards will act on the recommendation of a comity committee within a state to withhold funds.

Explaining the historical development of the home missionary movement, Dr. Halliday said that, up till the present, it has been primarily engaged in keeping up with the great westward expansion of the country, but now the problem calls for strengthening churches more than for creating new ones.

## NEWS OF CHRISTIAN COÖPERATION

### State-Wide County Conventions on Coöperation

Under the auspices of the New York State Council of Churches and Religious Education, a series of interdenominational conventions is being held in twenty counties this spring. Teams of leaders in religious education and interchurch coöperation are covering this itinerary, traveling from place to place by automobile. A seminar for pastors is conducted at each convention.

The New York State organization in April launched a quarterly publication known as the *State Council Reporter*, edited by W. T. Clemens, designed to further the coöperative spirit throughout the state.

### Connecticut Churches After Three Hundred Years

In connection with the state-wide observance of the three hundredth anniversary of the founding of Connecticut, the Connecticut Council of Churches and Religious Education has issued a publication calling attention to the development of "coöperation instead of competition" among the churches of the state. The cover of the booklet shows the little log church erected in 1635 as the first place of worship in the state and also the splendid United Church erected at the State Agricultural College at Storrs as a result of the work of the Connecticut Council of Churches.

The Connecticut Council of Churches and Religious Education has initiated a new plan for financial support in accordance with which each coöperating church is asked to contribute one-half of one per cent of its last gross budget as its minimum responsibility for coöperative Protestantism.

### Elizabeth, N. J., Features Union Meetings

The Council of Churches in Elizabeth, N. J., has given recent demonstration of what can be done in a smaller city without employed leadership. In Holy Week, it carried through two great union services. The union communion service was held for the eighth successive year, with fourteen churches coöperating. The eighth annual union Good Friday service drew the participation of twenty-five congregations. Earlier in the Lenten season, an interdenominational foreign missionary conference was held, with a program that provided special meetings for young people, ministers, business men and women, as well as general meetings of a popular character.

### Cincinnati's Coöperative Social Service

The Federation of Churches of Cincinnati has pioneered in the development of social welfare work under coöperative Protestant auspices. Its importance is so well recognized that the Community Chest includes the social program of the federation in its budget. The enterprises thus carried on include the Immigrant House of Friendliness and the Parkway Day Nursery. Two representatives are maintained in the Juvenile Court, one to function for the churches in relation to problem girls and the other in behalf of problem boys. A home for problem girls, known as Oak Crest, is maintained.

Activities of the federation which are supported directly by the churches include a weekday school of religious education for crippled children, daily vacation Bible schools, the work of a Protestant chaplain in the hospitals and a weekly religious broadcast each Sunday evening.

### New Type of Training for Theological Students

In order to provide students for the ministry with opportunities to obtain first-hand experience in dealing with the infirmities of mankind, the Council for the Clinical Training of Theological Students, whose board of governors is made up of physicians, psychiatrists and clergymen, is supervising the clinical training of theological students in twelve centers. These centers include general hospitals, hospitals for mental ailments, state prison systems, child guidance clinics and poor farms. The training consists of actual work with patients, participation in the conferences in the medical wards, and seminars in which physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers discuss with the theological students the problems of the patients with whom they are working. Dr. L. Foster Wood, of the Federal Council's staff, is a member of the Board of Governors. Further information can be had from Rosamond Hamilton Grant, General Secretary, 730 Park Avenue, New York.

### To Represent American Churches Abroad

By action of the Federal Council's Executive Committee on April 26, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, President of the International Society of Christian Endeavor, was designated as fraternal delegate to the General Assembly of the Waldensian Church, to be held in Italy this summer; Dr. M. Eugene Flipse, minister of the Community Church, Douglaston, Long Island, was appointed fraternal delegate to the Synod of the Church of the Netherlands in connection with his serving as guest minister at the American



Church at The Hague this summer, and Dr. Joseph R. Sizoo, minister of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington, D. C., was commissioned as special representative to the churches of England and Scotland.

By action of the Committee on Interchange of Preachers between the United States and Great Britain, a group of thirteen other clergymen were designated to fill pulpits as visiting preachers in England and Scotland this summer. They are: Rev. Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, of Cleveland; Rev. Albert B. Coe, of Oak Park, Ill.; Rev. Ralph E. Davis, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Henry M. Edmonds, of Birmingham, Ala.; Rev. Frank Jennings, of Cleveland; Rev. Ralph Waldo Lloyd, of Maryville, Tenn.; Rev. Hugh S. Mackenzie, of Chicago; Rev. Edgar F. Romig and Rev. Martin D. Hardin, of New York; Rev. Karl K. Quimby, of Ridgewood, N. J.; Rev. Clarence A. Spaulding, of River Forest, Ill.; Dr. Bruce S. Wright, of Meadville, Pa., and Rev. Samuel McCrea Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council.

### Denver Announces Institute of Public Affairs

The University of Denver announces an Institute of Public Affairs, to be held from June 28 to August 16, which is expected to attract teachers, ministers, leaders in community affairs and intelligent citizens who are eager to come into touch with the best thinking on contemporary social problems. The Institute is divided into five periods of two weeks each, dealing successively with the following subjects: What Can Education Do for the Advancement of the Social Order? Economic Planning for Social Security, The New Goals and the New Problems of Government, Contemporary Trends in the Social Organization, This Day in Civilization. Readers of the BULLETIN will doubtless be especially interested in the round-table conference on "The Function of the Church in Modern Life," which is scheduled to be held August 5-16, as a section in the general program dealing with social organization. Full information concerning the program and living accommodations can be secured from the Director of the Summer Session, University of Denver, Denver, Colorado.

### Executives in Social Action and Social Education Confer

On May 7 and 8, the executives of denominational agencies responsible for social action and social education met in a two-day conference at Calvary Church House, New York, to study common problems and consider cooperative action. The first day was spent in an analysis of the question, "What Does the American Social Situation Demand of the Churches?" Leaders in economic and social thinking were invited to present their points of view to the churchmen. The second day was devoted to the theme, "The Changing Situation regarding Negro-White Relationships in America." Negro spokesmen were invited to present their outlook. The conference was set up by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. F. Ernest Johnson, of the Federal Council's Department of Research and Education, with the col-

laboration of Dr. C. Rankin Barnes, of the Protestant Episcopal Department of Christian Social Service, and Dr. Hubert C. Herring, of the Congregational Council for Social Action. Similar conferences are projected at frequent intervals for the future.

### Missionary Journal

The May issue of the *Missionary Review of the World* illustrates its value for all who desire to keep in touch with the missionary enterprise. The contents include an article by Samuel M. Zwemer on the situation among Indian Moslems, a description of the work among the Navajo Indians of the American Southwest by C. C. Brooks, an interpretation of present problems in Puerto Rico by Charles S. Detweiler, and a discussion of the question, "Will Jews Become Christians?" by Dr. John S. Conning. Victor G. Mills, minister of a strong suburban church, describes how a pastor can stimulate the interest of his people in missions. The *Review*, which is the only general interdenominational missionary periodical published in America, is edited by Delavan L. Pierson at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, at \$2.50 per year.

### Wellesley Considers Religion and Social Change

"Religion as a Dynamic for Social Change" will be the subject for the two Sunday meetings of the Summer Institute for Social Progress at Wellesley, which will hold its third session July 6-20 on the campus of Wellesley College. "Social Planning in an Age of Conflict" is the general theme of the lectures, discussions and round-tables. The Institute recruits its membership from men and women active in the business, industrial and professional world. Max Lerner, professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College, will again head the faculty and assisting him will be Willard Thorp, acting head of the Advisory Committee of the N. R. A.; Phillips Bradley, associate professor of government at Amherst; Alfred D. Sheffield, professor of group leadership at Wellesley College; Helen Everett Meiklejohn of the San Francisco School of Social Studies, and Caroline Ware, head of Consumers' Council on leave from Vassar College. Applications for membership should be sent to Miss Dorothy P. Hill, director, 420 Jackson Bldg., Buffalo, New York.

### German Refugees Will Be Welcome in South America

There is assurance that a considerable number of German refugees will be eventually welcome in Brazil, the Argentine and Paraguay, Professor Norman Bentwich, formerly attorney general of Palestine and now associated with James G. McDonald, High Commissioner for German Refugees, told the Joint Christian Committee on German Refugees, which met in New York on May 3, under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Parkes Cadman.

Professor Bentwich emphasized that there are 15,000 non-Jewish refugees, thirty to forty per cent of whom are Christians of Jewish racial extraction. He declared that while Jewish organizations had helped not only their own co-

religionists but many non-Jewish victims of Nazi intolerance, only one Christian communion has extended any important help in this field—the Friends. He said that it would require the sum of \$250 per person to transport refugees to places of settlement.

### New Study of Relations Between Younger and Older Churches

"Partners in the Expanding Church" is the title of a brochure issued by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, summarizing the developing cooperation between the younger churches of Asia and Africa and the churches of America and Europe. Beginning where the Jerusalem Meeting of the International Missionary Council left off in 1928, the volume presents a picture of what has happened since, both in the policies of the missionary boards and in the attitudes of the churches that have grown out of missionary effort. The study was made by Dr. A. L. Warnshuis and Miss Esther Strong, Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the International Missionary Council. It is issued at thirty-five cents.

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## AMONG THE BEST NEW BOOKS

### The Church and Society

By F. ERNEST JOHNSON

Abingdon Press. \$1.50

For students of the social significance of the Church this is not a "book of the month," or even of the year, but of the decade. We venture the judgment that it will be a long time before it ceases to be recognized as one of the most instructive, discerning and well-balanced studies in this field. It has the qualities of keen analysis, sound judgment and mature reflection which a widening circle of admirers have discovered in the mind and spirit of the man who has for fifteen years headed the Federal Council's Department of Research and Education. His latest volume is nothing less than a carefully wrought social philosophy for organized Christianity.

Dr. Johnson begins with a picture of the "confusion of tongues" to-day concerning the function of the Church, ranging all the way from Harry Ward to Karl Barth. This leads to a penetrating analysis of the individual and the social elements in Christianity; resulting in a synthesis which is not artificially elaborated but found in the Christian Gospel itself. In dealing with the practical application of his basic principles, Dr. Johnson is frankly critical of the preoccupation with "church pronouncements." They are valid and valuable only when they have behind them an educational process as a result of which they truly represent not merely a determined minority but the Church at large. He takes over Troeltsch's classic distinction between a "church" and a "sect," and while insisting on full freedom for differing "sects" (i. e., little groups sharing a distinctive view) conceives the "Church" as an inclusive fellowship representing the community in its aspect as an aspiring and worshipping body. The great function of the Church is to provide the kind of spiritual fellowship in which growth in social conscience will take place as the result of the insight of its more prophetic members and an ethical discipline in the body as a whole.

The chapter on the Church and the State affords practical guidance as to what the Church may wisely do—and not do—with regard to legislative matters. Our experience with prohibition is taken as a timely illustration. In "The Church and the Community" the author faces the question as to whether the Church should itself perform social services of all sorts. His answer is that its chief function is rather that of "teaching ideals and attitudes, keeping faith alive and inspiring to high endeavor, impregnating social work and all other community functions with its purpose, its vision and its courage through the instrumentality of its members." In dealing with "social conflict" Dr. Johnson urges the Church to recognize the fundamental conflicts that exist instead of disguising them in a romantic and unrealistic naïveté. He sounds an unequivocal note on the necessity for a method of social struggle that is not ethically inconsistent with the Christian goal. The final word is that the great resource of the Church, as a "fellowship of faith and thought struggling toward

a divine society," is education—education of a more thoroughgoing character.

If the reviewer were urging the readers of the BULLETIN to take seriously one book out of this year's output more than any other, that book would be *The Church and Society*. S. M. C.

### Outfitting for Spiritual Marriage

By FLOYD VAN KEUREN

Morehouse Publishing Co. \$1.75

Dr. Van Keuren has presented marriage as a spiritual venture promising much, but also calling for the best in those who enter it. His book leads the young person to inquire what is his own personal equipment for marriage, and how he may improve that equipment. Love is seen as a thing which lives and grows, not simply an emotional accident. It requires emotional maturity. Immaturities that are likely to wreck marriage are pointed out, while those personal and social qualities which make for its success are encouraged. Engagement is a recognition of the existence of love. This period provides for a gradual adjustment of two personalities to each other in their understanding of the purposes and goals which they wish to set for themselves in marriage.

The wedding itself receives considerable attention both with regard to de-

tails of planning, and to spirit and atmosphere. Church weddings are advocated, and young people are encouraged to think of the pastor as a spiritual counsellor and friend. Suggestions are also offered for the wedding trip. An appendix gives the etiquette of weddings.

Young people starting out to build a new family must realize that their success will require winning out over difficulties. By meeting life together they will grow together, and will find enrichment of personality. They are encouraged to be play-mates, work-mates and worship-mates, and the home itself is to be a center of religious growth.

The realism of the book is illustrated by a chapter on Techniques for Troubled People. The author recognizes that troubles are sure to come, and that if unavoidable conflict of personality arises, it is well to face it squarely. Adjustment, however, is better than conflict and marriage requires that we solve many problems of our own personalities. Either the individual reader or the study group will find much valuable guidance in this book. L. F. W.

### Robert E. Speer: Christian

We have a way of characterizing outstanding men with some distinctive title and, while Robert E. Speer might be appropriately designated by several such, the title of this review best describes him in all his many and varied vocations. During his four years as

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**MACMILLAN . NEW YORK**



President of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, he surpassed all others who have occupied that office in illuminating its administrative routine and leading his colleagues into the deeper moral and spiritual sense of whatever they were undertaking. I venture to say that no man is on a surer ground of experience than Dr. Speer when he talks about *Christian Realities*, as he does in his new volume, published by Revell (\$2.00).

As one reads these messages one can but be amazed that men like Professor Machen can make Dr. Speer the target for shafts of ill-will, impugning his fidelity to Christian truth. In doing so, Dr. Machen condemns himself in the thinking of anyone who knows Robert Speer.

Christianity, according to Dr. Speer, is just what it was in the beginning; "we cannot eliminate now from Christianity the facts from which it arose." "It is also a set of convictions with regard to the meaning, the significance and the value of those facts" and "the confession of our Christian convictions in the great creeds of the Church is inevitable." Further, it is a Way of Life, "the possibility and reality of the mystical presence of God in human life."

If there is anywhere, from Thomas à Kempis to the most modern follower of Jesus, a finer narration than Dr. Speer's personal answers to the question: "What do I think that Jesus Christ is to me and does for me?" it has escaped my reading. It ought to be printed in form to hang on the wall of every young man and young woman.

Here is the sort of faith and conviction that has made one modest, unassuming, unselfish man the power that he has been and is in the Christian world.

C. S. M.

## The Church and Civilization

By LYNN HAROLD HOUGH

Round Table Press. \$2.00

Anything from the pen of the Dean of Drew Theological Seminary is characterized by a wide knowledge, by urbane sophistication, by mature insight, by a flashing style—and this latest volume of addresses, sermons and essays is no exception. Its chief theme is the Christian Church. Dr. Hough sees it, in the perspective of history, as "the creator of civilization." If it has made great mistakes, it is only because it works on so great a scale. Atheism, on the contrary, "has no history" and "has never created a culture." The Church is pictured as also "the critic of civilization," the judge of every social order while not identifiable with any. One of the most hopeful things about the Church is its capacity for self-criticism, its ability to produce its most effective critics from within its own life. Its unique mission is to "witness to the eternal in the midst of time,"

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and because of this it is truly the "conscience of the world."

The volume will come as a breath of invigorating fresh air to those who have felt stifled by current pessimism about the Church and skepticism about the validity of its Gospel. S. M. C.

## The Christian Fact and Modern Doubt

By GEORGE A. BUTTRICK

Scribner's. \$2.50.

The qualities of spiritual insight and robust faith which so conspicuously characterized Dr. Buttrick's great utterances at the biennial meeting of the Federal Council in Dayton last December reappear in this volume. Even when separated from his kindling personality, his words have both weight and radiance. He accepts at face value the doubts of our contemporaries, the doubts which we ourselves have in darker hours, and joins battle on high ground. The cardinal points of Christian belief are shown to be more valid—for mind and heart and will—than the current agnosticism.

THE STORY OF THE BIBLE. By Walter Russell Bowie, Abingdon Press. \$3.00.

A brilliant retelling of the Biblical materials, with a full recognition of the results of historical research and scholarship combined with deep reverence and spiritual insight. Especially valuable for young people and bound handsomely so as to make an attractive gift volume.

NOTE: The price of "What Is This Christianity?", reviewed in April, should have been \$2.00.



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